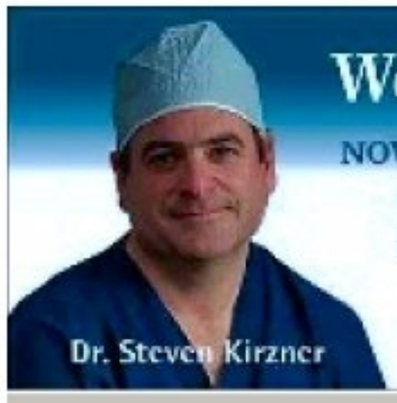

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Vancouver metro

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Missing: Actionable data on sexual assaults

metroVIEWS

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

High 11°C/Low 7°C Cloudy

Block on Robson may go car-free

RECOMMENDATION

Council to vote on pedestrian plaza pitch in front of gallery

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver will recommend permanently blocking traffic from a downtown block of Robson Street to create a car-free, pedestrian plaza, city manager Sadhu Johnston said Tuesday.

A staff report to be released Wednesday that recommends a permanent closure of the 800 block of Robson Street in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Johnston said. Council is scheduled to vote on the idea next week.

The block has been temporarily closed to vehicles for the past five summers to make way for seating installations, but staff will push for a year-round public plaza as originally intended by architect Arthur Erickson when he redesigned the site in the 1980s, Johnston said.

More details about the plaza won't be released until Wednesday, but the city has been discussing its potential since 2010 when it successfully closed the block for the Winter Olympics. Public space advocates have been pushing for a permanent closure ever since.

Council shelved a decision on a permanent closure pending TransLink's bus service review, which was completed this year. Meantime, it held design competitions for the annual closure that attracted pitches from architects around the world.

But the summertime closures have had mixed reviews. Some drivers aren't fond of giving up road space, transit users have complained about the re-route of the No. 5 bus — it's a challenge for seniors and people with mobility issues — and some businesses say it disrupts deliveries.

Still, pedestrians tend to flock to the block in the heart of the city that is a traditional protest spot as well as an excellent place to perch on a lunch break.

RCMP Const. Beckett, who died on duty last week, was remembered Tuesday as a loving wife and mother with a quirky sense of humour

metroNEWS

CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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From the very bottom of our well-intentioned hearts, we want to apologize. To everyone in every town from Iqaluit to Point Pelee, St. John's to Prince Rupert and everywhere in between: we're sorry.

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Tim Hortons.

P.S. Sorry for apologizing so many times. We can't help it.
#SoCanadian

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Hold on to your popcorn, Canada; 4D movies are coming. **Business**

Condo developer buys Molson Coors brewery

REAL ESTATE

Officials insist that they don't plan to change area's zoning

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver developer known for building glass condo towers has purchased the Molson Coors brewery at the south end of the Burrard Bridge — a prime piece of industrial land near False Creek that city officials state they have no plan to rezone for residential or commercial use.

Concord Pacific confirmed Tuesday it purchased the brewery with plans to build a mixed-use community. It paid $185 million for the 55-year-old brewery, according to The Globe and Mail, more than quadruple the property's 2015 assessment value of $43.6 million.

Concord will lease the property back to Molson while it builds a new brewery in the Lower Mainland, according to an emailed statement from Concord senior vice-president Peter Webb.

Molson sold the brewery in November 2015 after discontinuing beer bottling at the site and laying off more than a dozen workers.

"In the meantime, Concord plans to work with the approving authorities and the public to create a new addition to the community," Webb stated.

Concord's history proves it's willing to play the long game when it comes to residential development.

The company purchased the Expo '86 lands along False Creek in 1988, but nearly 30 years later has yet to develop the final parcel of land that triggers its obligation to build a waterfront park. It's expected to file a rezoning application in light of council's decision to tear down the viaducts.

Still, the brewery is zoned for industrial use, and officials at the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver's regional government have been adamant they don't intend to change that.

The Molson Coors brewery at the south end of the Burrard Bridge. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> **Our priority is to protect valuable and high-demand job spaces in the city.**
> Mayor Gregor Robertson

Mayor Gregor Robertson reiterated that stance on Tuesday, noting the industrial zoning in an emailed statement from the mayor's office. But his short statement didn't completely reject the idea of housing at the site.

"Our priority is to protect valuable and high-demand job spaces in the city while our economy continues to grow. I expect any proposal that comes forward for the Molson site will focus on increasing tech, green and high-skilled job space," Robertson said in a statement.

Concord seems to be promising the mayor exactly that. Its statement noted it "invests actively" in the IT, telecom and green-technology industries.

"Concord's long-term vision is to attract knowledge-based local and global tech companies to this site and create a truly sustainable mixed-use addition to Vancouver," Webb stated.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Richmond opts to not set up its own police

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Richmond won't establish its own police force.

Council has voted to accept the results of a public consultation presented to it on Monday that concludes residents can't justify the cost of ditching the RCMP in favour of starting up its own municipal department.

"We'll be sticking with the RCMP," Mayor Malcolm Brodie told Metro on Tuesday. "Basically, this consultation is over."

The city has been trying to gauge public interest after expressing concerns over the lack of input it has into RCMP operations and budgeting since the province signed onto a 20-year contract with the federal force in 2012.

Brodie said the city is happy with the RCMP's service but has difficulty having its voice heard in Ottawa.

Even though council has agreed to keep the RCMP, it has directed staff to look into the possibility of setting up a police board to provide the local detachment with some sort of civic oversight.

Brodie said he's not aware of any RCMP-served community that has a police board and said it's too early to speculate what such a board would be able to achieve.

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AIR SAFETY

Two dead in crash

Two people are dead after a small private plane crashed in the mountains of southeastern British Columbia.

The Transportation Safety Board says a single-engine Rockwell 112B took off from Kelowna on Monday morning heading to Wynyard, Sask.

A few hours later, another aircraft picked up a signal from an emergency locater beacon between Nakusp and Revelstoke.

The wreckage of the plane was found in the snow along with the remains of the two people who were on board.

The safety board says the two dead, who have not been identified, were adults.

The aircraft was registered in Wynyard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Kelowna woman wins $50M

A British Columbia grandmother who won the Lotto Max grand prize initially thought she'd won $50,000.

June Bergh asked her husband to double-check her ticket and says he instantly became dazed when he realized the ticket they were holding was actually worth $50 million.

Bergh says she's looking forward to sharing her winnings with her children and grandchildren, saying it gives her great pleasure to help others.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kayakers have close encounter with whale

WILDLIFE

A video of the experience has over 1K likes on Instagram

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

An Instagram video of a Vancouver kayaker's close encounter with a whale is making a splash online.

A user by the name of johnnyvanuck posted the video Monday, showing two kayakers floating in the waters between Kitsilano and Jericho beaches when a whale is seen breaching the surface to their right.

"Oh my god," says the person shooting the video, clearly startled by the sound of the whale's blowhole exhaling.

It swims right at the men before diving down just before hitting the first kayak, its tail sticking straight out of the water only a few feet from the stunned onlooker.

"I almost dropped my phone," says the man right after, as they both share a nervous, giddy laugh.

According to the Instagram post, the men got a little bit more than they bargained for.

"We set out to see if we could find the whale that has been feeding in the area for the last few days," johnnyvanuck writes. "My heart started racing when I saw small fish swimming to the surface in a frenzy, I knew it was close."

johnnyvanuck
Kits lano Beach
813 likes
johnnyvanuck We set out to see if w
feeding in the area for the last few d
This was between Jericho and Kits
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us at mentions@ckmw.com
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A Vancouver kayaker saw a whale up close at Kitsilano Beach on Monday. INSTAGRAM/JOHNNYVANUCK

> **Humans can have a major impact on whales, especially when we get too close.**
> Tessa Danelesko

The video had more than 1,000 likes as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Tessa Danelesko, co-ordinator of the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network, identified the whale as a humpback that has been spotted around English Bay over the past two weeks as it migrates north for the summer.

Humpbacks are fairly commonly seen this time of year in the Strait of Georgia and in Howe Sound, she said, but are rare in English Bay — where there is much more human activity to ward them off.

Danelesko said people hoping to catch a glimpse of whales in the wild should respect their space and not do anything to disturb their natural activity.

"This is the really important information. Humans can have a major impact on whales, especially when we get too close," she told Metro. "We tell people to stay at least 100 metres away, reduce speed and it's also important to stay out of the path of whales, it's best to be parallel with them and travel alongside it."

Whale, dolphin and sea turtle sightings can be reported at wildwhales.org, which Danelesko said helps researchers track animals and improve conservation methods.

The B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network has also recently launched Apple and Android apps for instant reporting.

ELECTION FINANCING

City not happy with ban refusal

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver is "extraordinarily disappointed" in the province's refusal to ban corporate, union and enormous individual donations to politics in local elections, a move that leave voters with the perception that money can buy influence, Coun. Andrea Reimer said Tuesday.

The B.C. Liberals voted on Monday against reforms to the Local Election Campaign Financing Act that would allow the City of Vancouver to set its own donation limits or ban corporate and union donations from local elections — a power Vancouver has pushed for over a decade of skyrocketing donations to municipal politics.

"I can tell you the public is fed up with the perception of influence of big money in politics," Reimer said. "We're at a time in democracy that we really need to build trust in public institutions, and the way to build trust is to ban union and corporate donations."

A lot of ink has been spilled recently about B.C. Premier Christy Clark's refusal to ban corporate donations in provincial politics after it was revealed rich donors pay tens of thousands of dollars to attend private events with her. But the same thing goes on in Vancouver's municipal elections, where people have paid $25,000 each to have lunch with Vision Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and one businessman donated $1 million to the Non-Partisan Association.

"That's so out of any realm of what people believe is reasonable," Reimer said of the $1-million donation, although she conceded that doesn't absolve her party from accepting large donations. Vision collected the most small, individual donations, Reimer noted, proving it's possible to finance elections without big money.

But without bans and caps, it will be hard to counter the perception that developers are running the show, Reimer said.

"To end the whole thing, just ban it," she said. "It's really straightforward."

The city is building a task force to regroup and figure out how to convince the province to act. In the meantime, Reimer encourages people to call their local MLAs to demand a change to the system.

REAL ESTATE

Group vows reforms to protect homebuyers

An advisory group looking at allegations made against British Columbia's real-estate industry says it expects to make recommendations that include bigger penalties for those who breach the law and a simpler complaint process for consumers.

In a progress report submitted to the Real Estate Council of British Columbia, the group says it also expects to suggest limiting the ability of real estate agents to represent both buyers and sellers in the same transactions.

The advisory group chaired by real estate superintendent Carolyn Rogers was appointed by the council in February to improve consumer protection and strengthen public confidence in the industry.

The progress report released Tuesday says it expects to suggest giving the council more enforcement tools, such as requiring all contract assignments to be reported directly to the council.

The practice by some Metro Vancouver agents allows a contract to be resold multiple times before a property deal closes, driving up prices and commissions.

The report highlighted 10 areas where the advisory group expects to make recommendations.

Council chairwoman Marylou Leslie says it is looking forward to strengthening consumer protection based on the advisory group's work.

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‘She lived for her family’: RCMP honours Mountie

IN REMEMBRANCE

Funeral notes Const. Sarah Beckett’s funny moments

RCMP officers, municipal police departments, EMS and uniformed enforcement agencies march along the Old Island Highway toward the Q Centre arena for the regimental funeral for Const. Sarah Beckett in Colwood, B.C. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An RCMP officer who died on duty last week was remembered Tuesday as a loving wife and mother with a quirky sense of humour and a commitment to service.

Const. Sarah Beckett, 32, died April 5 when her cruiser was broadsided by a pickup truck in the Vancouver Island community of Langford.

The 11-year member of the force left behind a husband and two sons, aged five and two.

“Goodbye, Sarah,” said her former colleague Staff Sgt. Phil Lue in an emotional message at the packed Q Centre hockey arena in Colwood. “Your memory will always stay with us, and you will be missed.”

Lue said the “excellent investigator” incited gales of laughter with her seagull calls, which drew the attention of hordes of birds and people amazed with her skill.

Her godfather Jack Hayden said Beckett aimed to become a paleontologist before deciding to follow in her grandfather’s footsteps and become an RCMP officer.

“She lived for her family,” Hayden said, adding that besides her love for her two young boys and their dog Maximus, Beckett prized her life with her husband Brad, who she met and married in Las Vegas.

“You warned me this day may come when we first met each other,” her husband said in a message read by Hayden. “I would still take this journey 1,000 times with you.”

Hayden said Beckett had an infectious laugh and that her colleagues nicknamed her Backup Beckett after she backed into a fire truck with her cruiser.

Beckett served at the RCMP detachment in Port McNeil, B.C., for five years after finishing her training in 2005.

She previously pumped gas, managed a Petro-Canada station and worked as a server, often amazed at the great tips she’d make because she “spilled so many drinks on customers,” said Hayden, who knew Beckett since she was born in Calgary.

Her parents and sister prized public service, Hayden told mourners, which included Premier Christy Clark and NDP Leader John Horgan.

> **I would still take this journey 1,000 times with you.**
> Brad, Beckett’s husband

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson described Beckett as smart, strong and fun.

“She loved this job because it played to her strengths: her perceptiveness, her personal acumen, her confidence, her resolve,” he said.

“She was outraged by injustice and fought to make it right. She had no time for complacency and didn’t abide it. She had a knack for interviews, and it followed a gift for engaging people. She was, in short, the archetypal modern Mountie. We will miss her.”

Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens, the Mounties’ commanding officer in B.C., said Beckett “made an undeniable difference during her 11-year career with the RCMP.”

Before the service, the clicking sound of boots marching on wet blacktop punctuated a grey, drizzly afternoon as a procession of law-enforcement officers arrived for Beckett’s funeral.

Hundreds of people lined the procession route as a hearse made its way to the service, which was attended by members of the public and about 2,000 law-enforcement officers.

A riderless horse signifying a fallen officer was part of the procession as officers marched in the sombre but colourful tribute to one of their own.

Beckett’s coffin, draped with a Canadian flag, was carried into the service by RCMP officers dressed in their traditional red serge uniforms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PORT COQUITLAM

Living wage rule adopted

Tereza Verenca
For Metro | Vancouver

The City of Port Coquitlam has followed New Westminster’s lead and has adopted a living-wage policy.

By the end of this year, all city employees will be paid at least $20.68 an hour. That number is based on a calculation of what it takes for two working parents to meet the basic expenses of a family of four in Metro Vancouver. For comparison, B.C.’s minimum wage is $10.45 an hour — the lowest in the country.

“It doesn’t allow people to take a vacation or buy a new, big-screen TV,” Coun. Brad West told Metro. “It’s really about meeting the basic necessities of life.”

West tabled the living-wage motion during Monday’s finance committee meeting. It was approved unanimously.

On social media, he called on surrounding municipalities to do the same.

“I think it’s important that the city communicates that we value and respect the dignity of work. If people are willing to get up each morning and go put in a full day’s worth of work, they should not be struggling to survive,” he said. “Work should be lifting them out of poverty, not keeping them in it.”

Transportation costs are among the growing expenses PoCo residents face, according to West. “We don’t have any SkyTrain lines. Bus service is not adequate, so a lot of people have no alternative but to have a vehicle, which is an additional cost,” he said.

While many city employees already make well above $20 an hour, West said the living wage will benefit the numerous contractors on the pay roll.

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CRIME

Police bust $200,000 fencing operation

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver police allege a married older couple has been running a large-scale fencing operation out of their home for years.

A 74-year-old man and 69-year-old woman were arrested after police executed a search warrant on a home on East 20th Street, near Fraser Street, on March 1 and seized approximately $200,000 in stolen property.

The items include clothing, accessories, batteries, Starbucks coffee packs and large quantities of supplements and other household items that can be found at a drug store.

The haul was displayed by the Vancouver police anti-fencing unit on Tuesday.

Police allege the husband and wife would purchase property from drug addicts, professional thieves and organized retail crime groups and then resell the property from their home, overseas or small retailers.

Some of the stolen items seized in the bust. CONTRIBUTED

The sheer volume of goods seized from the home suggest hundreds of crimes are required monthly to fuel the businesses.

The couple has no prior criminal record, but police say they were on investigators’ radar for some time.

Both have been released, pending the approval of criminal charges by prosecutors.

They have not been identified.

During the bust, police also seized a vehicle they believe was regularly used to transport stolen goods to and from the home.

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Police break up suicide pact of 13 young people

MENTAL HEALTH

First Nations community sees rash of attempts

A suicide pact by 13 young aboriginal people, including a nine-year-old, has been thwarted on a remote First Nation in northern Ontario where local leaders say they're so overwhelmed by the suicide crisis that extra police officers have been called in from nearby communities.

Anna Betty Achneepineskum of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation said the youths were overheard making a pact to kill themselves on Monday and police brought them to the local hospital in Attawapiskat for an evaluation.

But the hospital was already treating other patients who had attempted suicide in recent days and couldn't see all of the new arrivals, Achneepineskum said, so about half of them temporarily waited in jail for treatment, the only other place where officials felt their safety could be secured.

"There are so many things that are needed here," she said in an interview. "So many things."

Achneepineskum said the entire community of about 2,000 in the James Bay region is so overburdened by the rash of suicide attempts that three of the reserve's four health-care workers were sent to Thunder Bay for counselling and rest as reinforcements came in to help.

The remote northern Ontario First Nation of Attawapiskat declared a state of emergency after numerous suicide attempts this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Health Canada said Tuesday that roughly 18 additional people — including a crisis coordinator, two youth support workers and a psychologist - had been deployed as temporary crisis relief since a state of emergency was declared in Attawapiskat.

But Keith Conn, an assistant deputy minister for the department's First Nations and Inuit health branch, stressed "more aggressive" efforts must be made to meet the community's mental health needs in the long term.

The emotional distress of the teens and the dearth of resources in place to help them is a direct result of more than a century's worth of fraught relations between First Nations communities and the federal government, one leader said.

Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day said the pervasive ills plaguing aboriginal Canadians can be traced back to the Indian Act of 1876, which is marking its 140th anniversary.

Day said the act, which effectively transferred all decisions affecting First Nations to officials in Ottawa, set the stage for decades of turmoil, including residential schools, where young aboriginals endured horrific abuse.

Those experiences are at the heart of issues that include addiction, poor health and unemployment, all of which tend to converge on Canadian reserves that include Attawapiskat, Day said. Officials responsible for collecting demographic data on Attawapiskat did not respond to requests for the information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AFGHAN WAR

Soldiers not told to ignore abuse: Inquiry

The Canadian military was too focused on waging a bloody war against the Taliban 10 years ago to deal with reports from its own soldiers that children were being sexually abused by Afghans, an inquiry has concluded.

No soldiers were ever explicitly told to turn a blind eye to abuse, but no one quite grasped how homosexuality was viewed in Afghanistan or how to deal with incidents of abuse, said the report, released Tuesday nearly six years after it was completed.

Better cultural training ahead of deployments, clearer directives on what must be reported and changes to the military's rules of engagement and code of conduct have all been implemented since one soldier went to the media in 2008 with his story of witnessing abuse and an allegation soldiers were being told to ignore it.

The subsequent Toronto Star report spurred the military into action, and when the board of inquiry was established it learned that Canadian soldiers had been seeing or hearing Afghan soldiers having sex with boys since 2006.

The battle just to survive the deadly terrain of Kandahar province in 2007-08 was everyone's priority, the military said.

"Many (soldiers) in combat outposts where they would have heard reports of this type of behaviour, top of mind for them was their own survival in combat operations," said Col. Jay Janzen, a military spokesman.

The experience has taught the Canadian Forces that it's important to ensure soldiers know "instinctively" what they have to do, "even under the most difficult and demanding circumstances," he added.

The board of inquiry concluded its report in 2010 but it took six years for the chief of defence staff to sign off and make it public. That delay was attributed to the complexity of its recommendations and competing military priorities.

The report underscores a recurring criticism levelled at the Canadian government and the military in their approach to the war in Afghanistan: no one ever fully understood the culture of the country and didn't take time to learn it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Check on milk in cheese products: Dairy farmers

Milk producers are asking the feds enforce rules governing how much real milk is included in cheese. Industry stakeholders said a U.S. milk protein is being used improperly as actual milk, costing them tens of thousands a year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Central bank to assess impact of multibillion-dollar commitments

The Bank of Canada is scheduled to deliver an assessment Wednesday: its take on just how much of a lift it expects the economy to get from billions in federal government spending commitments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VISAS

CETA trade deal at stake amid dispute

Canada and the European Union traded barbs Tuesday in their long-running visa dispute, escalating their brinkmanship as a key deadline in the impasse came and went without a resolution.

Europe's top envoy to Canada said there's no guarantee the mammoth Canada-EU free trade deal would win approval in the European Parliament if Canada keeps visa restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian travellers.

A spokesman for Immigration Minister John McCallum shot back with a warning that if the EU imposes a retaliatory visa on Canada it might hurt EU tourism, as well as economic and political relations.

Marie-Anne Coninsx, the European Union's ambassador to Canada, linked the free-trade deal, known as CETA, with the unresolved visa dispute.

If the visa issue isn't resolved when CETA comes before the European Parliament for a vote, expected by years' end, Coninsx said Bulgaria and Romania would vote against it.

While only a majority vote of the EU Parliament is needed ratify CETA, Coninsx said other countries might also vote against the deal.

"There might be other nationalities who say we don't like what is happening with our brothers and sisters from Romania and Bulgaria and we do the same," Coninsx said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BODY POSITIVITY

Waging a war on weight discrimination

An activist wants to make it illegal to discriminate against someone based on their size, shape or weight.

Jill Andrew, co-founder of the Body Confidence Canada Awards, is meeting Wednesday with the province's human rights commissioner to discuss possible changes to the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Weight deserves the same attention as other basis for discrimination that are protected by the code today, including age, sex, disability, ethnic origin and sexual orientation, Andrew said.

"All of the same social and cultural stereotypes that are wrongly linked to being fat — being lazy or being unintelligent or lacking energy — have fed into employers who discriminate against people who are looking for work or to be promoted," she said.

Body image advocate Jill Andrew, third from left, is working to have a person's size, shape and weight protected against discrimination in the Ontario Human Rights Code. FACEBOOK

If the proposal is adopted, it would be illegal to discriminate against a person — to fire them or refuse to rent an apartment to them, for example — because of their weight.

Andrew got the opportunity to make her case to when she spoke alongside Rena Mandhane, who heads Ontario's Human Rights Commission, at a recent event for women in politics in Toronto.

"She was very eager to have the conversation," said Andrew. "I'm hoping she hears my arguments and sees some merits in them."

Daniel Chodos, an employment lawyer based in Toronto, said there's long been concern about how body size issues are handled in human rights cases.

While a person's weight isn't listed in the Ontario Human Rights Code today, it can be considered in cases where it's linked to a medical disability, such as diabetes, Chodos said.

"All of this would be a lot easier if it were its own category and the question is, should it be?" he said. "I would lean towards it should be."

ENTERTAINMENT

Russian cartoon bear a big hit

A proverbial Russian bear has long alarmed Westerners as the symbol of Moscow's might and purported ferocity. But the Russian who has taken the world by storm is a sweet goof who hasn't fired a single shot.

Masha and the Bear, a Russian animated television series launched in 2009, now broadcasts in more than 120 countries including the United States. Its YouTube channel is in the top 10 most-viewed worldwide.

The cartoon centres on the mischievous girl Masha and the towering Bear, a retired circus performer who falls victim to the green-eyed sprite's pranks.

Their real home is a former Soviet kindergarten in Moscow's northern outskirts. There, more than 70 animators each produce two to four seconds of screen time a day. It's slow work due to the highly detailed images, unusual for television series.

The cartoon has roots in the Soviet animated film industry, which had unusual freedom. Officials regarded cartoons as fairly insignificant and did not apply smothering censorship. Despite the industry's creativity, its cartoons remained unknown outside the Russian-speaking world until Masha and the Bear broke through. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A notebook featuring Masha and the Bear THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities raid offices of Mossack Fonseca

PANAMA PAPERS

Prosecutors looking for information linked to leak

Organized crime prosecutors raided the Panama City offices of the Mossack Fonseca law firm Tuesday looking for evidence of money laundering and financing terrorism following a leak of documents about tax havens it set up for wealthy international clients.

A half-dozen police officers set up a perimeter around the offices while prosecutors searched inside for documents. Shortly after news reports based on a trove of documents from the firm began emerging more than a week ago, Panama's government had said it would investigate.

The attorney general's office said in a statement that the objective of the raid was "to obtain documentation linked to the information published in news articles that establish the use of the firm in illicit activities."

Mossack Fonseca has denied any wrongdoing, saying it only set up offshore financial accounts and anonymous shell companies for clients and was not involved in how those accounts were used. Co-founder Roman Fonseca said Tuesday that the firm was preparing a statement.

The search came a day after intellectual property prosecutors visited Mossack Fonseca to follow up on the firm's allegations that a computer hack led to the leak of millions of documents about tax havens.

The firm filed a complaint charging the security breach shortly before the first media reports working with the documents offered details on how politicians, celebrities and companies around the globe were hiding assets in offshore accounts and shell companies.

"Finally the real criminals are being investigated," Fonseca said in a message to The Associated Press on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALLOUT

Corruption probes close in on Argentina's Fernandez

A federal prosecutor has asked that Argentina's former president Cristina Fernandez be included in a widening investigation into money laundering. A separate money-laundering probe into hotels owned by her family has been relaunched.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAY 3

A royal celebration

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are on a weeklong tour of India and Bhutan, visiting in the cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Assam, Bhutan and Agra. Here are some sights from Day 3 of their visit.

1 Kate and Will watch as a little boy dances by the fireside during a Bihu Festival Celebration at Diphlu River Lodge in Kaziranga, India.

2 Kate looks on as her husband tries to play an Indian whistle.

3 Dancers perform by the fireside.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

MONUMENT

Democrats capitalize on Equal Pay Day

U.S. President Barack Obama and other Democrats on Tuesday seized on Equal Pay Day — a symbolic event dramatizing how much longer it takes a woman to earn as much as a man — to court women voters and call out Republicans for inaction on the issue.

Obama dedicated a new national monument to women's equality and pushed Congress to pass legislation. He suggested he's encouraged by movement toward full gender equality in many arenas — including corporate boardrooms, professional sports and presidential politics.

"If we truly value fairness then America should be a level playing field," the president said, as he joined House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Maryland Democratic Sen. Barbara Mikulski and other Democrats at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum in D.C., the onetime home of the National Women's Party now designated as Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument. Alva Belmont and Alice Paul were figures in the women's rights and suffrage movements.

Barack Obama speaks at the newly-designated Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

The Democrats' focus on Equal Pay comes amid a presidential campaign where the Republican front-runner, Donald Trump, has alienated female voters in droves, leading to GOP fears he could diminish the party's standing with that key constituency for years to come. Yet once again this year, while Obama and Democratic lawmakers trumpet their equal pay proposals at news conferences and briefings, Republicans have little to offer in return.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATTACKS

Brussels officials charge 2, detain 3

Two men have been charged with offences related to the Brussels bombings, and three others have been detained in Brussels in connection to the Paris attacks, Belgian authorities said Tuesday.

The Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office said the two who have been charged, identified only as Smail F. and Ibrahim F., were involved in renting an apartment in the Etterbeek area of Brussels that served as a hideout for the bomber who attacked the Brussels subway on March 22 as well as a suspected accomplice.

It said the detention of the three related to the Paris attacks followed a morning search in Uccle, an upscale district of the Belgian capital. A judge will decide Wednesday whether the three people should remain in custody, it said. It said no further information would be made public about the search.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get drenched at the movies

ENTERTAINMENT

4DX comes to first Canadian theatre this summer

Hang onto your popcorn — and steer clear of hot drinks.

Though you don't normally go to the movies to get rained or snowed on, Cineplex Entertainment is betting customers will pay extra for the privilege this summer, when the company introduces 4DX immersive technology at a Toronto theatre.

4DX incorporates a jolt on every level, from water streams and air blasts to lightning and familiar scents, along with chairs that pivot and swerve, in tandem with the action on the screen.

"It's like you're in the movie," Cineplex spokesperson Sarah Van Lange said Tuesday.

"It makes the movie-going experience truly immersive."

Though the ticket price is not yet public, it is part of a spate of premium movie-viewing offerings from IMAX to UltraAVX that carry a higher ticket price for an upgraded experience at Canada's largest movie chain.

In the fourth quarter of 2015 — which was Cineplex's most successful year ever — premium movie experiences accounted for 46.8 per cent of total box office revenues. That averaged out to 39 per cent for the full year, which is more than double the box office revenues some of its peers generated in the U.S. last year, she said.

"Canadians, more than Americans, love premium movie experiences," said Van Lange.

For example, 80 per cent of the advance tickets Cineplex sold last year for Star Wars: The Force Awakens were for these elevated movie-watching platforms.

The exact launch date and first movie to be shown in 4DX have not yet been determined as the auditorium undergoes a massive overhaul to incorporate the new technology from South Korean firm CJ 4DPLEX.

But it will no doubt be a blockbuster as it was at the recent launch in New York City of Batman V Superman. The 4DX technology is already at more than 230 movie screens across Europe and Asia. The new Toronto location marks the first in Canada and third in North America, including Los Angeles.

"You want to keep upgrading and enhancing your offerings because the movie industry has to stay ahead of whatever home theatre offers," said Canaccord Genuity analyst Aravinda Galappatthige.

"When you upgrade, you get better attendance," he noted.

He said 4DX is not for everyone, but it can't help but generate more curiosity at the box office, where customers have a range of choices including IMAX, UltraAVX, 3D, DBOX and VIP seating.

The 4DX auditorium will feature specially-designed motion chairs and environmental effects like wind, mist, bubbles, snow and scent working in synchronicity with the action on the big screen.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> "Canadians, more than Americans, love premium movie experiences."
> Sarah Van Lange

4DX incorporates a jolt on every level, from water streams and air blasts to lightning and familiar scents, along with chairs that move, in tandem with on-screen action. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PROJECTION

Economic growth to slow: IMF

The International Monetary Fund is lowering its economic growth projections for Canada and the world.

Slowing growth in global oil exports, low crude prices and weak demand for non-oil commodities were identified as factors.

The IMF is now projecting Canada's economy to grow by 1.5 per cent this year and by 1.9 per cent next year.

That would be an improvement on last year's growth of 1.2 per cent but less than the IMF's January estimate, which projected Canada's economy would grow 1.7 per cent in 2016 and 2.1 per cent in 2017.

The IMF is also lowering its estimates for the United States and the global economy overall, with China being an exception.

The international body repeated a recent warning that the world's economic growth remains too slow and too fragile, increasing the risk of social and political stress in many countries.

The revised outlook is being released as the IMF begins its spring meetings in Washington, D.C. Finance ministers and central bank governors from the G20 countries are also scheduled to hold meetings alongside the IMF.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 78.38¢ (+0.85¢)
TSX 13,581.42 (+158.66)
OIL $42.17 US (+$1.81)
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Your essential daily news
Wednesday, April 13, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD **SEXUAL ASSAULT DATA**

KNOWING IS HALF THE BATTLE

By the standards of our big-data age, we know shockingly little about the true extent and nature of sexual assault in this country, much less about what authorities are doing to address it. A concerted effort to collect, share and analyze data could be **our last, best hope for change.**

It began last week with a simple question.

Ottawa police had a 39 per cent charge rate for sexual assaults in 2014. I wanted to know: How does that compare to the national average?

But there was one problem. That comparison doesn't exist.

Statistics Canada tracks some data on sexual assault in this country. But rates of charges versus police complaints? No. In fact, even StatsCan's own data sets aren't designed to be compared to each other, like puzzle pieces never cut to fit.

We are witnessing a crescendo of attention on sexual assault never seen before. Decades of research and activism have brought us here, but depressingly, they have done nothing to change the rate of sexual violence in the last 15 years.

There is one thing we haven't tried: the collection, organization and analysis of robust, in-depth and actionable data.

As things stand now, when a woman comes forward, we don't usefully record what happens next.

The same is true, of course, for all crimes. But there is good reason to demand that, in the case of sexual assault, much more needs to be done.

Sexual assault — everything from unwanted sexual touching to violent rape — is a unique umbrella of crime in this country.

First of all, it's overwhelming committed by men against women. Secondly, sexual assaults aren't addressed by the justice system as often as other crimes. Nationally, physical assaults are seven times more likely to play out in courts, compared to sexual assaults.

You can't sift insight from thin air. Police, schools and StatsCan must be compelled to collect more information.

But most alarming is that while crime rates have uniformly been falling since 1999, only sexual assault has remained stable.

Better data should begin with local police departments, which only ever hear about five per cent of sexual assaults to begin with, and which have no uniform practice for tracking or publishing sexual-assault data In Vancouver, police host an online public database, but it only includes the number of cases investigated as sexual assaults (including those against children); it doesn't include all complaints and doesn't break down cases by outcome or factors like race.

Ottawa police released stats on sexual assault complaints (also including kids) only after a freedom of information request. The data showed the result of each complaint, including "unfounded" and "founded but not solved," but there were no details on how investigators reached their conclusions. This is typical.

Both Ottawa and Calgary police have played the "trust us" card and taken pains to defend the thoroughness of their investigators.

But police forces could be hard-pressed to offer more nuanced data, even if they wanted to. ViCLAS, a national computer investigation system, was designed, like other police computer systems, to take in information and help investigations — not to spit out data for analysis.

Nowhere have statistics on sexual assault come more under fire recently than on Canadian campuses. In 2014, media investigations revealed the hodgepodge, incomplete nature of information collected at universities and colleges. Schools weren't even tracking the same categories of incidents and they had no obligation to share their data publicly. A concealing blanket lay atop a space where, advocates say, woman face heightened risk of sexual assault.

In reaction, Ontario passed a law requiring campuses to create specific sexual assault policies and data-reporting practices. In B.C. and Alberta, advocates are drawing up recommendations for how campuses should track and investigate sexual assault complaints and support survivors.

Tracy Porteous, part of that team, wants to see schools in B.C. adopt a computer database that would track complaints and aid investigations (like police systems) and also compile statistics (unlike police systems).

But even these efforts are insufficient.

For one, not all provinces are demanding change. Whatever data is generated might not even be comparable to that of schools in other provinces, let alone to police or StatsCan. And I highly doubt it will be sufficiently detailed, given that, in Ontario, schools have been vaguely instructed to collect "information" on sexual assault complaints.

It's particularly ironic that this kind of paltry information exists in the age of big data, giving lie to the belief that boundless information is everywhere, just waiting to be found. There's a chance, though, that new mathematical algorithms of the kinds studied by Prof. Andrea Lodi could shed light on what little sex assault data we've got. Lodi, the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Data Science for Real-Time Decision-Making, calls it that kind of analysis "the new frontier."

But you can't sift insight from thin air. Police, schools and even StatsCan must be compelled to collect more information and collaborate more closely.

Data could be our last, best shot to change abysmal rates of sexual violence, reporting and convictions. We must start actually using it.

Left: A protester is seen outside a Toronto courthouse where the Jian Ghomeshi trial took place. Right: A sign made up of messages created by students in September 2015 as part of the anti-violence project at the University of Victoria. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS ; CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Possible 400-year-old Caravaggio found in an attic in France

Land of cashew milk and honey

To adopt healthier eating habits, focus on adding an extra portion of fruit and veg to every meal rather than dwelling on the foods you're cutting out, advises food writer Ella Woodward. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Plant-based meals made easy thanks to Deliciously Ella

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

Addition, not subtraction, is the key to making a seamless transition to healthier eating habits, says U.K. food blogger Ella Woodward.

"Deprivation doesn't work," says Woodward, who visited New York and Toronto last week to promote her new book, Deliciously Ella Every Day (Simon & Schuster Canada).

"I try and help people to focus on adding stuff in, rather than always thinking what you're cutting out," she tells Metro.

Woodward overhauled her lifestyle after being diagnosed with Postural Tachycardia Syndrome.

One of the symptoms of this condition is a difficulty maintaining a normal heart rate, which meant even the simplest tasks were unconquerable for her.

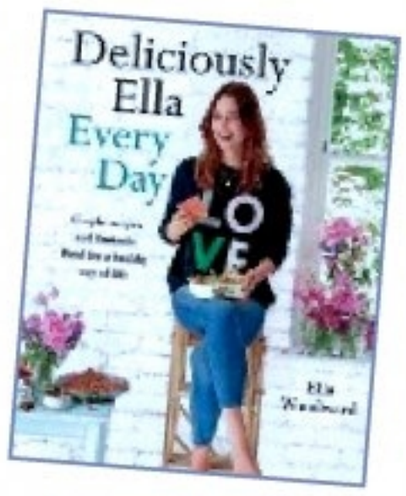
She says switching to a plant-based diet has helped her, but Woodward stays away from offering health advice to her fans (she has over 800,000 followers on Instagram, another 392,000 on Pinterest).

ELLA'S FAVOURITE
"They're so easy. It takes three minutes and you can always make a big batch at once and freeze the rest."

"I don't want to give very specific advice. I think that nutrition is absolutely amazing but it's so important to work one-on-one with someone. I'm much more about just promoting eating natural foods, showing people easy, more tasty ways of eating them and incorporating them into their life."

Start with simple changes like switching to brown rice instead of white, or swapping quinoa for pasta.

Before you know it, you'll be craving home-made cashew milk and cauliflower pizza crust — and it won't feel like a diet.



RECIPE FROM DELICIOUSLY ELLA EVERY DAY

A favorite recipe from my blog, which I hope you'll love. It's incredibly simple but very addictive; the first time I made this I cooked it four or five times in the following two weeks! There's just something about the mix of soft, buttery beans smothered in home-made pesto with sautéed spinach, crunchy pumpkin seeds and sweet, juicy pomegranates that I can't get enough of.

WARMING PESTO LIMA BEANS

Serves 1.

Ingredients for the pesto:
- 1 garlic clove
- 6 tablespoons pine nuts
- big handful of fresh basil leaves (1 ounce)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- juice of 1 lemon
- salt and pepper

Ingredients for the salad:
- one 15-ounce can lima beans, drained and rinsed
- 3.5 ounces spinach
- olive oil
- juice of 1 lemon
- pepper
- handful of pumpkin seeds
- sprinkling of pomegranate seeds

Directions:
1. Start by making the pesto. Simply peel the garlic and then put all the ingredients into a food processor and blend until smooth. Set aside.

2. Place the beans in a frying pan with the spinach and pesto and sauté everything in a splash of olive oil for 2–3 minutes until the spinach has wilted and everything is warm.

3. While they cook, squeeze the lemon (for the salad) over the beans and add pepper.

4. Place the pesto beans and spinach into a bowl and sprinkle the pumpkin and pomegranate seeds over the top.

Tweak it
In hot weather, swap the wilted spinach for fresh arugula and serve this as a cold salad.

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BOOK EXCERPT CHICKPEA FLOUR DOES IT ALL BY LINDSEY S. LOVE

Chickpea flour adds a cheesy touch

This Alfredo with Watercress and Chives is vegan friendly thanks to chickpea flour. CONTRIBUTED

FOOD ALTERNATIVES

Legume mimics gooey goodness of sauces made from dairy

Upon first discovering that chickpea flour can not only be used as a thickener in sauces but also made into a sauce all on its own, I was beyond excited for the possibilities, and the outcome of this sauce completely exceeded my expectations.

Many, if not most, vegan cheese substitutes incorporate some type of nut that gives a cheese-like consistency when soaked and blended with water.

However, I was always a little disappointed that my "cheese" sauces continually didn't have that gooey, cheesy texture. So when fooling around with a chickpea flour mix one day, I thought why not add it to the base of a vegan cheese sauce to give it that gooeyness I had longed for.

After I added some flavourings, salt and pepper, and the like, I was amazed at the result: a cheese sauce tasting just the way I remember from my childhood.

There are so many ways of incorporating this sauce into meals and dishes, whether it's over pasta, as a warm cheesy dip for vegetables, or poured over baked sweet potatoes or homemade french fries.

Alfredo with Watercress and Chives
Serves: 4
Prep time: 12 hours
Cook time: 20 minutes.

Ingredients:
- 16 ounces (454 g) gluten-free and vegan pasta (or pasta of choice)
- ¼ cup (40 g) plus 1 Tbsp cashews, soaked overnight and drained
- 1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp plus 1 ½ teaspoons nutritional yeast
- 2 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 ½ tsp lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- ½ tsp sea salt, plus more to taste
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup (240 ml) water
- ¼ cup (30 g) chickpea flour
- 2 Tbsp chopped chives, plus chive flowers for garnish
- 1 cup (34 g) packed watercress
- Freshly ground nutmeg, to taste

Directions:

1. Begin cooking the pasta, according to instructions on the bag. While the pasta is cooking, make the sauce.

2. Place the soaked cashews in an upright high-speed blender; add the oil, yeast, vinegar, lemon juice, garlic, salt, and pepper to taste; set aside.

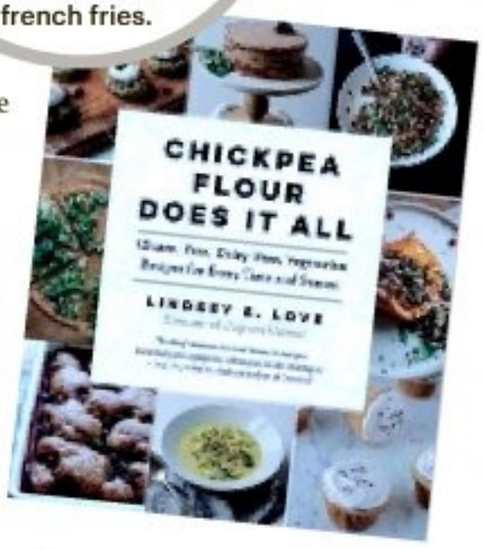
3. In a small saucepan, whisk together the water and flour, turn the heat to medium and continue to whisk for 6 to 7 minutes, until the mixture thickens to the consistency of a roux. Gently and carefully pour the mixture into the blender. Blend on high for 1 minute, until creamy and smooth. Taste and adjust any seasonings, if needed. Add 1 tablespoon of chives and blend on medium for about 30 seconds.

4. In the last 30 seconds of cooking the pasta to al dente, add the watercress and cook until wilted. Drain the pasta and watercress and quickly rinse with cold water to stop them from cooking.

5. Transfer the pasta and watercress to a serving bowl; pour the sauce over the pasta and mix. Taste and adjust salt, if needed. Serve hot with remaining 1 tablespoon of chives, chive flowers, and nutmeg.

TRY IT ON OTHER FOODS

There are so many ways of incorporating this sauce into meals and dishes, whether it's over pasta, as a warm cheesy dip for vegetables, or poured over baked sweet potatoes or homemade french fries.



RECIPE FROM CHICKPEA FLOUR DOES IT ALL: GLUTEN-FREE, DAIRY-FREE, VEGETARIAN RECIPES FOR EVERY TASTE AND SEASON ©LINDSEY S. LOVE, 2016. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER, THE EXPERIMENT. AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD. THEEXPERIMENTPUBLISHING.COM

LIQUID ASSETS

Show your love for Malbec on April 17

Though Malbec can trace its vine back to France's Bordeaux and southern Cahors regions of France, in today's wine world it's best known as the calling card of Argentinian wineries.

That's proven to be a double-edged corkscrew. Becoming so synonymous with the country has trained consumers to buy little else from Argentina, leaving great wines made with locally grown Tannat, Bonarda and Torrontés (on the white side) collecting dust on the shelf.

It's also led to a sea of sub-par Argentinean Malbec (especially from the Mendoza region) as producers spin their creative wheels trying to expand their range while still catering to their customer base.

Malbec World Day on April 17th, is an attempt by Argentina (and other Malbec makers) to give the grape some well-deserved props.

Graffigna's 2013 Centenario Reserve Malbec ($12.79-$14.99) is made in the San Juan region. Dark, black and spicy, it's a natural mate for grilled meats.

Show your love on social media using #MalbecWorldDay.

PETER ROCKWELL/ METRO

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metro DRIVE
Your essential daily news

Lamborghini commissions artist Alfonso Borghi to create art inspired by the Miura

Kia is boxy, but has a lot of Soul

REVIEW

Latest model feels roomier than past offerings

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Boxy styling isn't necessarily the prettiest, but it certainly is practical. The Kia Soul may be a compact, but its squared-off shape gives you more interior space than you might expect.

The base trim line comes with a 1.6-litre engine making 130 horsepower, but I'd suggest moving up to the 2.0-litre engine, which produces 164 horsepower and is used in all the other trims.

The larger engine comes solely with a six-speed automatic transmission and while it gets noisy on hard acceleration, it handles both city and highway driving quite well.

The tight turning radius makes it easy to park in small spaces, especially with the rearview camera that's optional on the mid-range EX trim and standard on my top-line SX tester.

There's also a gimmicky feature called Flex Steer, included on all models, which lets the driver switch the steering feel between normal, comfort, or sport.

Kia has made improvements over the original system, which was far too soft in comfort mode, but even in sport mode it could use a bit more steering weight.

At an average published fuel economy of 8.8 L/100 km, the Soul isn't a gas-guzzler but also isn't as efficient as many other vehicles its size.

The Soul feels substantial, and the interior is comfortable and with good fit-and-finish. The base model is exactly that, as its extra cost to put air conditioning into it, but the upper trim lines add numerous features.

> **The tight turning radius makes it easy to park in small spaces, especially with the rearview camera that's optional.**

For $25,995, my tester included a heated steering wheel, heated leather seats, power-folding mirrors and an auto-dimming rearview mirror.

The top trim, at $27,495, has lane departure and front collision warning, navigation, heated and cooled seats, and a panoramic sunroof.

There used to be far more entries in this "tall wagon" category, such as Toyota's Matrix, Honda's Element, and the Nissan Cube.

The Soul has outlasted them all and now, in its second generation, has matured into a well-outfitted model that makes the most of its compact proportions.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 KIA SOUL

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact hatchback
Engine (hp/torque): 1.6-litre four-cylinder (130/118), 2.0-litre four-cylinder (164/151)
Transmissions. Six-speed manual (1.6 only), six-speed automatic
Price. $17,195 (base), as-tested $25,995

COOL FEATURES

- Heated wiper de-icer
- Heated and cooled leather seats
- Rearview camera
- Cooled glovebox
- Front collision warning system
- Navigation system

KIA PHOTOS JIL MCINOTSH/FOR METRO; OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- Like all Kia models, the Soul comes with a five-year/100,000 warranty that covers almost everything.
- The tested SX Sport trim line comes exclusively in red-black or red-white two-tone colour schemes.
- The Soul has virtually the same headroom as Kia's midsize Sorento SUV.

MARKET POSITION

Although Kia shares most of its model configurations with similar offerings from parent company Hyundai, the Soul is stand-alone with no matching equivalent. It's also available as an all-electric model, the Soul EV.

THE COMPETITION

Chevrolet Sonic
Base price: $14,395

Honda Fit
Base price: $14,790

Fiat 500L
Base price: $21,995

GREEN NEWS

Mercedes commits to electric Smart fleet by end of 2016

At its annual shareholder meeting in Berlin, Mercedes-Benz parent company Daimler pledged to develop and launch a battery-powered car with a 500-kilometre range before the end of the decade.

Dr. Dieter Zetsche, Daimler's chairman and the head of Mercedes-Benz Cars, said, "The more cars and commercial vehicles are on the road, the more efficiently each one of them must be operated."

Compatriot company Porsche, despite being a niche manufacturer in terms of sales and vehicle lineup, is already hard at work bringing a similarly long-range electric car to market with a goal of a 2018 launch.

However, as a company that sells millions of private and commercial vehicles every year, Daimler needs to move more quickly in order to reduce emissions and cut pollution across its fleet.

By the end of 2016 every current vehicle in the company's Smart range of inner-city cars will be offered as a plug-in electric vehicle and it also intends to bet big on hybrid drivetrains as a short-term solution while full EV technology catches up for larger vehicles.

Mercedes' Dr. Dieter Zetsche says the company welcomes disruptors like car sharing and autonomous driving. DAIMLER AG

"In 2017, we will have 10 plug-in (hybrid) models on the market," said Zetsche.

Despite the continuing backlash from the Dieselgate scandal, Daimler also reiterated its faith in diesel and its crucial role to play in lowering the average CO2 emissions on roads not just in Europe, but around the globe.

"At Mercedes, we believe in the diesel engine — and in our engineering skills," said Zetsche.

The notion of personal mobility is going through its biggest single evolution since Karl Benz invented the internal-combustion-engine-propelled motorcar in 1885. Daimler is the company that grew out of that initial automotive eureka moment and as a result likes to lay claim to being the car's creator.

And rather than trying to preserve the status quo, the company believes the disruption coming from autonomous driving technology, pollution concerns, upstarts like Tesla and the popularity of services like Uber are all positive.

"It is a matter of utilizing the opportunities that changes bring along," Zetsche said.

It's also why Daimler is also investing heavily in its existing ride-sharing services and on efficient long distance buses. AFP

Don't need a crash course to pick helmet

While most people think its the outside world that degrades a helmet, it's actually bacteria and acids from a riders head that cause the most damage. AFP

SAFETY

Experts say to get a replacement after five years

It doesn't matter how cool a crash helmet may look or how well it goes with your brand new bike or syncs with your phone's Bluetooth system — unless it fits your head properly, in the event of an accident it will offer the same amount of protection as any other fashion accessory.

Despite the unrelenting march of online shopping and the growing trend for showrooming, buying a crash helmet, particularly if it's your first, is something that should only ever be done in person.

"We always stress for people to go to their local dealer to buy a helmet, where trained staff can ensure they get the right fit for them," explains Mark Eilledge, the racing and technical manager for Shark helmets.

You can check the size of your head with a tape measure for a rough idea of fit (just like before buying a hat) but "different helmet brands — and styles within the brand — have different fits and suit different people," Eilledge explains.

Regardless of whether you like the look of a full-face, modular, off-road or open-face helmet, all types and styles of helmet are identical when it comes to fitting.

And in this regard, it's surprising that even experienced bikers are often caught out, thinking a helmet should feel loose on the head.

"If it slides on too easily then it's too big and won't protect you effectively," says Eilledge, pointing out that once on, a rider shouldn't be able to get a finger between the helmet and the liner. 'You should feel the skin on your head move rather than the helmet shift (when moving the helmet up and down or side to side with your hands). If the helmet moves independently from your head, then it's too big."

The lining is key to fit, comfort and safety in all helmets and it is the liner's condition that dictates how effective the helmet will be in the event of an accident.

"Often people think it's damage to the outside of the helmet over time which means it needs replacing, when actually, it's the bacteria and the acid inside from the rider's head that degrades it from the inside. I always say: Imagine having the same pillowcase on your bed for five years without washing it," explains Eilledge.

So looking after the inside and keeping it clean is absolutely vital, as is giving it a proper wipe down after every ride. "There's a whole host of things not to do to a helmet — don't drop it, don't put it near fuel, don't rest it on your fuel tank, don't put your dirty oily gloves in the helmet and don't be scared to wash the internal liners," Eilledge says.

However, even if you manage not to drop it and avoid having an accident, even a premium helmet has a short usable life as Eilledge explains: "Most helmet manufacturers — Shark included — would say that a helmet has a maximum 'life' of five years. This is on the basis of looking after it and keeping the inside liner washed and clean." AFP

THREE TO TRY

Shark Evo-One
The new helmets are a full 100 grams lighter and are even more streamlined while the sun visor has been beefed up.

Touratech Aventuro Mod
The Aventuro is a modular helmet that offers all of the advantages of being able to flip up the entire front without any of the design's drawbacks.

The Caberg Uptown
This is a Jet style helmet in that it's open-face but the visor extends past the rider's chin, just like a fighter pilot's helmet. It's a premium, aesthetic choice for long-distance touring and for the urban commute. AFP

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2016 CONSUMER SATISFACTION AWARD

Mario Danielle Andrew Bal Jimmy Charles

Competition brings electric advances

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

TWO WORDS

Honda provides clarity on fuel-cell sedan

The 2016 Honda Clarity Fuel Cell sedan will sport a fuel-cell stack that is 33 per cent more hydrogen compact, yet 60 per cent more power dense than the one in the FCX concept car that became the Clarity. Honda says the new stack fits fully under the hood, allowing more passenger space inside. Range is expected to exceed 500 kilometres and refueling time is claimed to be less than five minutes.

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

NISSAN-RENAULT

Bolt not giving us a jolt: CEO

Facing stiffer competition from electric-car competitors — notably from the 320-kilometre all-electric Chevrolet Bolt EV coming later this year — doesn't seem to worry the CEO of the world's largest maker of electric vehicles, Carlos Ghosn of Nissan-Renault. Ghosn told attendees at the recent 2016 Automotive News World Congress in Detroit that he welcomes the competition. Expansion of the electric-vehicle segment would encourage governments, buyers and electric utilities to invest in charging infrastructure, notes alternate-vehicle web page, Green Car Reports. "We are all part of the same thing," he said. Governments need to play a major role in expanding charging infrastructure, which he views as vital to growing the appeal of electric cars with consumers.

DELTAWING + DHX

Electric motor collab in the works

DeltaWing Technology Group and DHX Electric Machines, both based in Georgia, are collaborating to build small, lightweight electric motors for automotive applications. The companies claim that their electric motors are 75 per cent smaller than equivalent-output motors for automotive applications, achieved through engineering improvements in heat management.

metro SPORTS

B.C.'s Rory MacDonald, headliner of June's UFC Fight Night in Ottawa, took in batting practice and threw out the first pitch at Tuesday's Jays game

Desjardins will 'definitely be back'

CANUCKS

Linden gives head coach vote of confidence

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Head coach Willie Desjardins' efforts were not enough to save the Canucks from missing the playoffs for the second time in three seasons. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Addressing the need for holding young players accountable, Willie Desjardins, having just finished his sophomore season as an NHL head coach, threw himself into that mix.

"If we just play them and don't make them accountable, they're not going to get better. And it's the same with me," Desjardins said Tuesday.

"I need to find a way to have a better year next year."

The first regular season under Desjardins was, by and large, a positive one, especially compared to the stormy waters from the previous year.

The Canucks bounced back and made the playoffs following the brief-but-disastrous John Tortorella tenure.

That faded in the playoffs against Calgary, particularly when it came to the amount of ice time Desjardins was giving the Sedin twins in the first two games.

The scrutiny carried over to this season.

The Canucks finished with the second-lowest goals-for total (186). They were 15-21-5 on home ice, and 18-4-8 when leading after two periods, for the lowest winning percentage in the league for that category.

They were 0-7 in overtime from October to early December and looked utterly lost at first with the new 3-on-3 format. There was debate about whether or not the players had, by the final remaining games, tuned out the coach. And Desjardins once again came under fire on numerous occasions for his deployment of players in certain situations.

> **I need to find a way to have a better year next year.**
> Willie Desjardins

Linden gave Desjardins a vote of confidence early in March.

On Monday, Henrik Sedin said Desjardins was "absolutely" the right person to coach this team moving forward.

"Not to put Trevor on the spot but I think he's a quality guy and when he says things, I believe him," said Desjardins.

"I know he's in a spot where things may change."

This was a team that had committed to getting younger. Growing pains were evident.

Serious and lengthy injuries to top players like Brandon Sutter (twice), Dan Hamhuis, Chris Tanev and Alex Edler — not to mention the ailments Henrik Sedin was apparently dealing with — further sunk this team.

With such a depleted, inexperienced roster, it seems unfair, according to Linden, to blame the coach.

"He was given a challenge," Linden reiterated. "He worked hard at it, did a good job and he'll definitely be back next year."

MLB

Yankees stifle Jays' bats for narrow win

Yankees second baseman Starlin Castro turns a double play against the Blue Jays' Troy Tulowitzki on Tuesday night in Toronto. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

A look at the Toronto Blue Jays' stat sheet offers some revealing numbers.

Troy Tulowitzki is batting .107 on the season. Chris Colabello is hitting at a .067 clip and Russell Martin isn't much better at .087.

The bullpen has also been suspect at times. Brett Cecil was the latest reliever to turn in a mediocre performance, giving up the go-ahead run in a 3-2 loss to the New York Yankees on Tuesday night.

Cecil came on in the seventh inning in relief of starter Aaron Sanchez. He gave up a leadoff hit to Chase Headley, who later scored on a Jacoby Ellsbury single.

The New York bullpen took care of the rest in the opener of the three-game series at Rogers Centre.

Dellin Betances fanned Jose Bautista with a runner on second base to end the seventh inning and he added two more strikeouts in the eighth. Andrew Miller worked a perfect ninth inning for his second save.

Toronto managed just three hits on the night. Bautista drove in both runs with a double in the third inning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TELEVISION

Ratings mirror woes of Canadian teams

The biggest roll of the dice in Canadian TV history has come up snake eyes.

All seven Canadian teams sit on the sidelines as Rogers Media wraps up the second season of a $5.2-billion, 12-year deal with the NHL.

With little to cheer for, ratings have taken a massive hit.

Overnight estimates for last Saturday's Hockey Night in Canada broadcast were just 721,000.

Over a 30-week period, ratings for the early game on Hockey Night in Canada are down 18 per cent for the season. Later games out west are down 19 per cent on average. On Sundays, Sportsnet's Hometown Hockey is down 42 per cent season-to-season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benning, fan base on 'Demko Watch'

"Demko Watch" is a thing. It apparently has its own hashtag on Twitter.

General manager Jim Benning, on Tuesday, expanded on the visit he had with Thatcher Demko's family last week while the Boston College star goalie was in Tampa Bay for the NCAA Frozen Four.

Benning did not actually speak with Demko himself.

Demko, a second-round pick of the Canucks' in 2014, just concluded an exceptional junior year that earned him recognition as a Hobey Baker Award finalist. Vancouver is intent on getting him signed within the next couple of weeks.

Demko Thatcher GETTY IMAGES

While he didn't speak to the actual player, Benning said he had a good conversation with Demko's parents.

"He was concentrating on trying to win a championship and we didn't want to disrupt him from his focus on that," said Benning.

"He's an extremely competitive guy and he was so mad that they lost out the night before, he didn't want to visit or talk the following day."

If they can't ink the prospect puck stopper, he would return to Boston College as a senior. The risk is that at the end of his senior year, Demko could become a free agent in the summer and would then be available to sign elsewhere. That would mean the Canucks lose a prospect they see as a potential No. 1 goalie for them at some point.

"I'm confident and hope he decides that he's going to turn pro sooner rather than later," said Benning. CAM TUCKER/METRO

NHL IN BRIEF

Scoring remains stagnant

For the fourth consecutive 82-game season, the NHL has failed to top 6,600 goals scored.

This year's total is 858 goals fewer than in 2005-06, when the NHL revamped its rules to eliminate clutching and grabbing in a bid to open up offence.

The NHL is expected to introduce new rules next season in which the equipment a goalie wears is based on a player's individual size. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sens' new general manager fires coach

Pierre Dorion wasted no time making his first move as general manager of the Ottawa Senators.

Head coach Dave Cameron and assistants Andre Tourigny, Jason Smith and Rick Wamsley were all fired Tuesday, just two days after Dorion took over as GM from Bryan Murray.

Ottawa missed the NHL playoffs after posting a disappointing 38-35-9 record. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big games beckoning

NBA

Raptors almost set for first-round clash with Pacers

TUESDAY in Toronto

122	98
RAPTORS	76ERS

The Toronto Raptors still have one game left in the regular season, a meaningless contest in Brooklyn on Wednesday night. For all intents and purposes, the playoffs started for the Raptors on Tuesday evening.

The Raptors took care of business in their final home game of the regular season, beating the Philadelphia 76ers 122-98. More importantly, with Indiana winning in New York against the Knicks and the Pistons losing at home to Miami, the Raptors are now guaranteed to play the Pacers in the first round, which kicks off on the weekend.

In both of the last two seasons, the identity of the their first-round opponent was a mystery until the final day of the season. Now, the Raptors get a small head start on the scouting process.

"We can start preparing for it. We've got a team coming in in the playoffs that's really good," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said after the game. "Paul George is unbelievable. Monta Ellis is unbelievable. George Hill is unbelievable. They've got some good bigs. We've got to start preparing for them. We've got one more game, and then we've really got to lock in."

Added coach Dwane Casey: "They're a good team, a team that's been there before. Paul George is one of the elite players in the league."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Delon Wright goes to the hoop against the Sixers on Tuesday. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLS

Nagbe out for Timbers' next tilt

Timbers midfielder Darlington Nagbe has a sprained left ankle and won't play in Portland's game against Dallas Wednesday night, becoming the latest player to miss time because of a Nigel de Jong challenge.

Coach Caleb Porter confirmed Nagbe's injury following practice Tuesday. Nagbe also is likely to miss Saturday's game against New York City FC.

Nagbe was taken from the field on a stretcher following de Jong's hit in the game against the Los Angeles Galaxy. Nagbe left StubHub Center in a wheelchair. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigel de Jong checks on Darlington Nagbe on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Ronaldo saves Real Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo came through for Real Madrid again, scoring a hat trick to lead his team back to the semifinals of the Champions League with a 3-0 win over Wolfsburg on Tuesday.

Ronaldo netted goals in the 16th and 17th minutes and then added a decisive third with in the 77th as Madrid overturned a 2-0 loss in last week's first leg to win 3-2 on aggregate.

In England, Kevin de Bruyne sent Manchester City into the semis for the first time, securing a hard-fought 1-0 win over Paris to build on a 2-2 draw from the first leg.

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RECIPE Orzo, Basil & Tomato salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This salad packs lots of flavour due to the fresh basil and tomatoes, and it makes you think you're eating a picnic dinner in a garden. Not bad for a Wednesday.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 2 cups cooked orzo
- 25 fresh basil leaves, various sizes
- 1 shallot, cut into quarters
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3/4 cup olive oil
- zest and juice of one lemon
- 1 teaspoon honey
- salt
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup shaved parmesan cheese
- 5 mint leaves chopped

Directions

1. Cook orzo pasta according to package directions. Set aside.

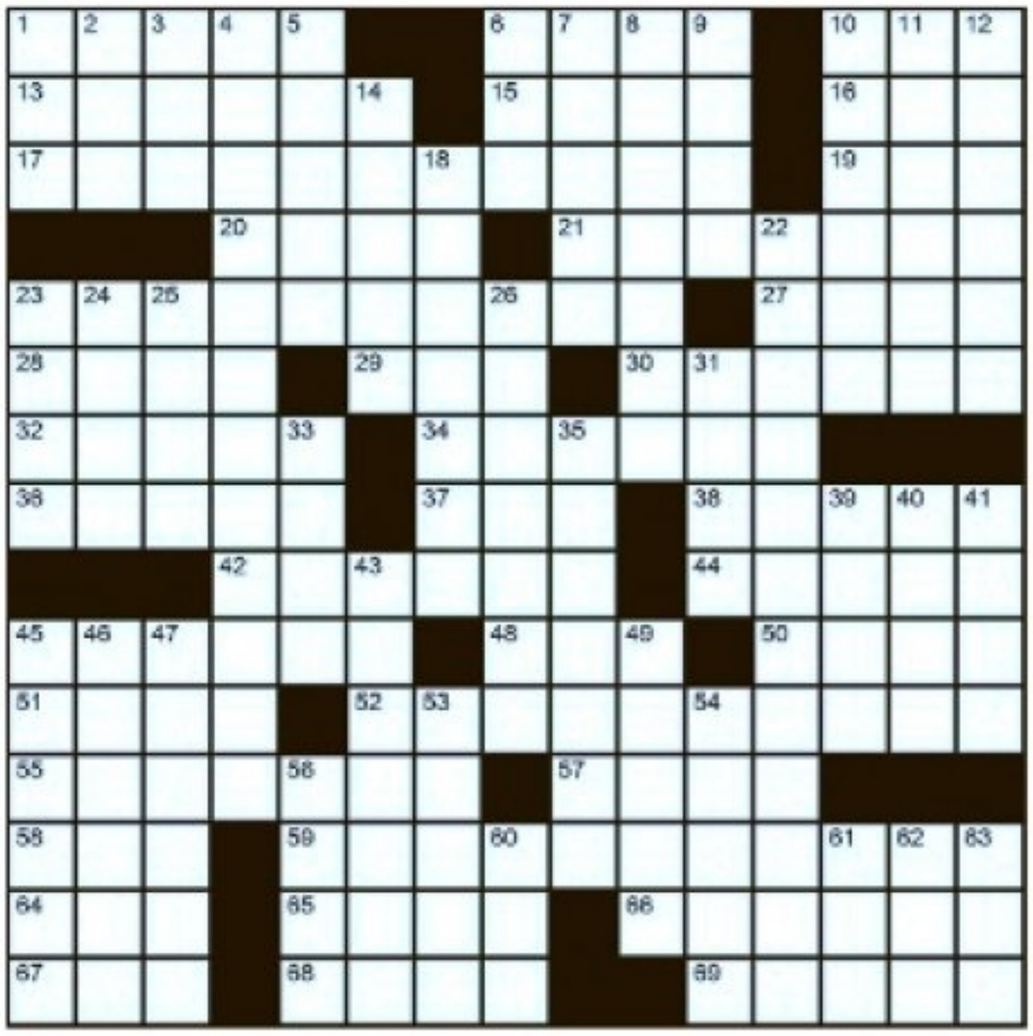
2. Place basil leaves, shallot, garlic, oil, lemon zest and juice, honey and salt in a blender (you can also use an immersion blender) with water and give it a whiz until blended.

3. Mix dressing into pasta. Stir in cherry tomatoes and parmesan. Sprinkle fresh chopped mint.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Historic Puritan port city
6. Customer's slip [abbr.]
10. Poet's 'atop'
13. Treasured stashes
15. 'Smack' suffix (Dollar, in slang)
16. Opposite SSW
17. Crunch those numbers again
19. 2016 Pres. candidate ...his initials-sharers
20. Neither 'for' nor 'against' [abbr.]
21. Positioned-to-catch-the-baseball shout!: 3 wds.
23. Mishmash
27. Country property expanse
28. Ms. Sands of '60s songs
29. Pre-summer time, wee-ly
30. Top-_ (Best of the best)
32. _ Park (Thomas Edison's home/lab site in New Jersey)
34. Like the 'feet' of some poets
36. "...the bombs bursting _ _..."
37. _ Khan Museum (Toronto attraction)
38. Mr. Wyle's
42. Detector
44. Pull at: 2 wds.
45. Remain: 2 wds.
48. Mr. Geller
50. Barn's weathery decoration
51. "Brava!"-inducing vocal
52. _ chicken (Swiss Chalet's famous serving)
55. Boulevard in Winnipeg
57. The Koh-i-_ Diamond
58. _ Ken (Working dog breed)
59. Canadian team of superheroes in Marvel Comics: 2 wds.
64. Mel of baseball fame
65. Reality star Coco's rapper-turned-actor husband
66. Healthier
67. PBS funding org.
68. Sr. and Jr. actors Chaney
69. Mr. Arnaz's (Lucille's love)

DOWN
1. Li'l narrow waterway
2. The Who's "Who _ You"
3. 1989: "Wild Thing" by Tone-_
4. Canadian supermodel Linda's
5. Skirmish
6. Farm. member
7. TV's Mr. Kilborn
8. Sage or parsley, etc. ...culinary-style
9. _ _ fine line
10. Next up at bats: 2 wds.
11. Full
12. Relaxed
14. Atlantic 'porgy' fishies
18. Paradises
22. Stanley Park enjoyer from the area
23. Prefix to 'sphere'
24. Kitchen appliance
25. Ms. Pugliese of "Breakfast Television" in Toronto
26. Prolong: 2 wds.
31. "_ She Sweet"
33. Beaver State, briefly
35. Gill-y member of #59-Across who can swim at amazing speeds, her Earth parents are Newfoundland couple Gladys and Tom Smallwood
39. Culture medium
40. Hagar The Horrible's daughter
41. Dagger
43. Big name in electric shavers
45. Radish variety
46. Embellished
47. Elton John title song lady
49. Starts racing!: 2 wds.
53. Pencil _ _ (Writing options)
54. Dependable
56. Flicka's flick-ee
60. Standing-human measurements [abbr.]
61. Lettered Mustang cars
62. Gospel song: "_ - _ Believe"
63. Susan Sarandon's ex-beau ...his initials-sharers

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Power struggles might create domestic arguments today. Don't take the bait! Remind yourself how important family harmony is for you as well as for others.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be careful, because this is a mildly accident-prone day. People are intent on getting their own way, even if unexpected obstacles arise. Take it easy.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Quarrels about money and possessions might take place today because someone opposes your ideas. Listen to others, and look for a win/win solution.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Bosses and parents might catch you off-guard today, which in turn, creates an argument with a partner or close friend. Something will upset you. Nevertheless, don't let this ruin your day. Rise above it.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Travel plans will be canceled, changed or delayed today. Meanwhile, avoid controversial subjects, because these could spiral into something nasty.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Disputes about inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt will occur today. A female friend might oppose you, especially if it relates to your kids.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a poor day to challenge authority figures — parents, bosses, teachers and the police. Everything is a bit of a crapshoot, so keep your head down and your powder dry.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. It's also an accident-prone day at work. This means you should slow down and pay attention to everything you say and do.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make friends with your bank account and anything having to do with taxes, debt and shared property, because something unexpected will occur today. This is also an accident-prone day for your kids. Be alert!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Quarrels with partners and close friends might arise today, especially because of news or a surprising turn of events at home.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day, especially at work. Knowing this, be mindful. Don't be in a rush to do anything. Look around you.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Social plans, vacations and something to do with your finances might surprise you today. Perhaps a planned event costs more than you thought it would? (Welcome to the club.)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	2	3		6		1	7	
	4			5			8	
			7		1			
		5		4		2		
1	6		5	2	3		9	4
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	9			3			1	
	1	8		9		7	4	

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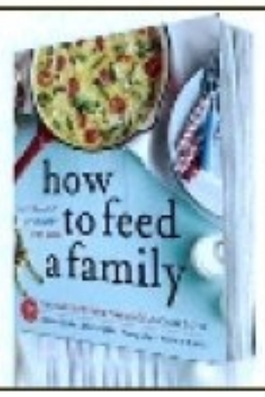
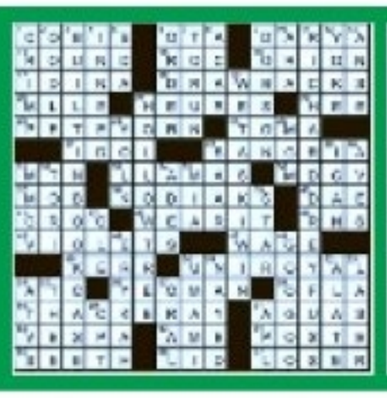


YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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4	7	3	8	5	9	6	1	2
2	9	8	1	4	6	5	7	3
9	8	5	2	3	1	4	6	7
3	1	4	9	6	7	8	2	5
7	2	6	4	8	5	3	9	1

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